

*Connecting People through Public Space*

July 25, 2018

Dear City Councilmembers,

Four years ago, Seattle Parks Foundation commissioned Dan Biederman (of New York's Bryant Park) to assess current conditions at Occidental Square and to develop a plan to revitalize that park so that it could be a vibrant and welcoming gathering place for people of all ages and walks of life. His report guided an effort to dramatically enhance public life in Occidental Square and Westlake Park—an effort now led by Downtown Seattle Association, with major financial and fundraising support from Seattle Parks Foundation, Alliance for Pioneer Square, and Friends of Waterfront Seattle and in deep partnership with Seattle Parks and Recreation.

As you know, this work—generously supported by downtown businesses and pilot funding from the Metropolitan Park District—has been remarkably successful and now serves as proof of concept for the new model of public benefit partnership that will support programming and stewardship along the new central waterfront.

Seattle Parks Foundation is continuing to build on this success and has raised funds to construct a beautiful public pavilion in Occidental Square. Designed by internationally acclaimed architects at Olson Kundig, this pavilion is a 13-foot by 17-foot wood structure that nests nicely on an existing raised platform area at the north end of the park. It will serve as a visitor center, a stage for the numerous performances in the park, and a glass-roofed, lit porch for park users in inclement weather.

Private donations fully fund the design, permitting, and installation of the pavilion and all the necessary work to deliver a complete project to the City of Seattle. Seattle Parks Foundation will gift the pavilion to the City, and it will be the City's responsibility to maintain it.

Thank you,



Thatcher Bailey  
President and CEO

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